

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming section having a developer storage space into which developer is stored; and

an ejection unit that ejects therefrom a recording medium on which an image has been formed by the image forming section, wherein

the ejection unit owns an inclination portion which has a lower end and an upper end, while being obliquely formed,

at least a portion of the developer storage space of the image forming section is arranged in an area which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from the lower end of the inclination portion, and a vertical plane extended from the upper end of the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

2. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming section having a developer storage space into which developer is stored; and

an ejection unit that ejects therefrom a recording medium on which an image is formed by the image forming section, wherein

the ejection unit owns an inclination portion which is obliquely formed,

at least a portion of a wall surface which surrounds the developer storage space along the inclination portion is formed,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image forming section includes an image carrier, an optical writing apparatus for forming a latent image on the image carrier, and a developing apparatus containing the developer storage space, for developing the latent image of the image carrier so as to produce a visible image.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
a developer storage capacity of the first developer storage portion is larger than that of the second developer storage portion.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein
the optical writing apparatus is constituted by a laser exposing apparatus, and is arranged at a position which is extended from the latent image forming position of the image carrier to the horizontal direction.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the image forming section includes a process cartridge which includes an
image carrier on which a latent image is formed, and a developing unit containing the
developer storage, for developing the latent image of the image carrier so as to produce a
visible image.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
the inclination portion can be freely opened/closed, and the process cartridge
can be detachably mounted via an opening portion which is formed when the inclination
portion is opened.

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6 further
comprising:
a paper supplying apparatus having a supply unit for supplying the recording
medium;
a transfer apparatus provided opposite to the image carrier of the process
cartridge;
a fixing apparatus arranged on the down-stream side of the transfer apparatus;
and
a transport path that transports the recording medium supplied from the supply
unit of the paper supplying apparatus between the image carrier and the transfer apparatus,
and for ejecting the recording medium via the fixing apparatus to the ejection unit, wherein
a portion of the transport path defined from the supply unit of the paper supply
apparatus up to the fixing apparatus is formed along a substantially vertical direction.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the inclination portion of the ejection unit has the lower end in the vicinity of
an exit port from which the recording medium is ejected, and is heightened toward the upper
end of the inclination portion.
10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
a grip portion is provided on the wall surface which surrounds the developer
storage space.
11. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
the grip portion is formed in such a manner that the grip portion is entered into
an inner side of a wall surface of the grip portion.
12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
a flow path that causes air to pass therethrough is formed between the ejection
portion and the wall surface.
13. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
the flow path is constructed of a rib which is formed on at least one of the
ejection unit and the wall surface.
14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
the rib is formed along an ejection direction of the recording medium which is
ejected to the ejection unit.
15. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge used in an image forming
apparatus containing an ejection unit having an inclination portion which is obliquely formed
in order to eject therefrom a recording medium comprising:
a developer storage space that stores thereinto developer, wherein
at least a portion of the developer storage space is arranged in a space which is
surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from a lower end of the

inclination portion, and also, a vertical plane extended from an upper end of the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

16. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge used in an image forming apparatus containing an ejection unit having an inclination portion which is obliquely formed in order to eject therefrom a recording medium comprising:

a developer storage space that stores thereinto developer, wherein
at least a portion of a wall surface which surrounds the developer storage space is formed along the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying body; and

a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying body by using a developer,

wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box; and

wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upstream of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body, and an upper portion of the developer replenishment box is substantially higher than an upper portion of the image carrying body.

18. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a process cartridge detachably attached to the apparatus body, the process cartridge into which the image carrying body and at least one process unit are incorporated, wherein the process cartridge includes the developer replenishment box.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the developer replenishment box is detachably attached to the process cartridge.

20. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein an image carrying body cartridge including at least the image carrying body is detachably attached to the process cartridge.

21. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the process cartridge is attached to and detached from the apparatus body by opening an opening/closing cover provided in an upper part of the apparatus body.

22. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a waste developer recovering box integrally attached to the developer replenishment box.

23. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 17,
wherein a recording sheet onto which a visual image is transferred from the
image carrying body is transported from a lower part to an upper part; and
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed on an upper side of the
latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

24. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further
comprising a discharge tray for accommodating discharged sheets, disposed in an upper part
of the developer replenishment box.

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein an
upper surface housing of the developer replenishment box is an inclined surface inclined in
the same direction as of the discharge tray accommodating the recording sheets.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
developer replenishment box is capable of containing a larger amount of developer than the
developing housing disposed in a lower side of the latent image writing position on the image
carrying body.

27. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23,
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upper part of a
latent image writing position on the image carrying body;
wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image
writing position; and

wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to the
developing housing by way of a communicative passage, which makes a detour around the
latent image writing position.

28. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
- a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying body;
- a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying body by using a developer; and
- the image carrying body temporarily holds the visual image formed on the image carrying body and transferring the visual image onto a recording sheet,
- wherein the recording sheet is transported from a lower part to an upper part;
- wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box; and
- wherein the developing housing and the developer replenishment box are disposed in an upper part of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.
29. (Original) A process cartridge comprising:
- an image carrying body;
- at least one process unit; and
- a developer replenishment box,
- wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to a developing housing; and
- wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upstream of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.
30. (Canceled)
31. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image writing position.